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The President's Daily Brief

October 9, 1975

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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PORTUGAL

The Communists yesterday called for a conference between government leaders and parties of the left to prevent the unrest in the military from turning into a civil war.

The Communists blame the current turmoil on the Socialist-dominated government's efforts to purge pro-Communists and other leftists from the military, the media, and other influential positions. They also charge that the government is compromised by the presence of the Popular Democratic Party, which the Communists describe as a tool of the Socialists.

Although the Communists officially have supported the government, they may now drop this pretense and turn their attention to their heretofore covert campaign to undermine it. Yesterday, the party issued a statement praising political agitation among army units as "a magnificent riposte" to reactionary attempts to swing the country to the right. The party's call for removing reactionaries from command positions indicates it has no intention of backing Prime Minister Azevedo's efforts to restore military discipline.

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Azorean separatists, meanwhile, may be trying to capitalize on the government's problems on the mainland. The Azorean Liberation Front has given the interior minister eight days to approve a request for a referendum on independence for the islands. If the request is refused, the Front says it will consider a unilateral declaration. The independence movement has lost its momentum since Goncalves was replaced, and this may be meant to recapture the initiative.

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LEBANON

Lebanese authorities have reported that all sides have agreed to another cease-fire following the latest eruption in Beirut's suburbs. This is the sixth cease-fire since the fighting spread to the capital three weeks ago, and security forces are still making little headway in separating the opposing Christian and Muslim militiamen. Heavy fighting also has broken out in the Tripoli-Zagharta area.

Fighting continued in Beirut last night despite the cease-fire.

[redacted] Muslim militiamen [redacted] refused to allow the security forces to take over their barricades even though Phalangist forces had already relinquished their posts. 25X1 25X1 25X1

The latest outbreak has increased the possibility that less radical fedayeen organizations--Fatah and Saiqa--will cease their cooperation with the security forces. [redacted] a change in attitude on the part of Saiqa and Fatah against continued cooperation. 25X1 25X1

Syrian President Asad apparently still wishes to play a moderating role in the crisis. [redacted] Asad is concerned over the Palestine Liberation Organization's failure to control the Lebanese leftist groups. [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

Prime Minister Karami is to confer with Asad in Damascus this morning and almost certainly will ask Syria to make another attempt to mediate the crisis. Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam probably will be asked to return to Beirut.

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USSR - EAST GERMANY

The 25-year friendship treaty signed by the Soviet Union and East Germany on Tuesday is another attempt by Moscow to legitimize the division of Germany and to justify Soviet hegemony in Eastern Europe.

The new agreement replaces a 20-year accord signed in 1964 that was to remain in effect unless a German peace treaty was signed or Germany was reunited. The Soviets clearly believe that the Helsinki agreement is a surrogate for a German peace treaty. Moreover, both the new friendship treaty and General Secretary Brezhnev's remarks preceding its signature make plain that the European status quo is now considered frozen and that any possibility for German reunification, peaceful or otherwise, is out of the question. References in the treaty to East Germany as a "sovereign, independent state" reflect both sides' desire that East Germany's enhanced status be internationally recognized.

The treaty also includes language asserting that the responsibility of all "socialist" countries is to support, strengthen, and defend "socialist gains." This language was used to justify the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia and has come to be known as the "Brezhnev doctrine." By their selection of these words, the Soviets are telling the East Europeans that there will be no fundamental change in their relationship with the USSR as a consequence of Helsinki.

At the same time, the citation of the Brezhnev doctrine and the great stress on across-the-board cooperation in the treaty may be intended by the General Secretary to quiet fears within the Soviet leadership that the Helsinki final act and the Vienna force reduction talks will undermine Moscow's grip on Eastern Europe. In a recent article in *Kommunist*, Foreign Minister Gromyko clearly stated that Moscow will raise the degree of its cohesion with Eastern Europe to still higher levels. If the new treaty with East Germany is intended as a vehicle for reaching this goal, invitations to the Czechoslovaks, Poles, and other East Europeans to sign similar accords may be in the offing.

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

Israel appears to be taking a relaxed view of the tough requirements Syria has outlined for a resumption of negotiations.

Top Israeli leaders are not optimistic that the talks will get under way any time soon. They are concerned that their failure to maintain at least an appearance of negotiating momentum, however, might jeopardize the renewal of the UN forces' mandate on the Golan Heights. Thus, they appear to be using the press to hint publicly that they are still interested in negotiating with Damascus.

One Israeli newspaper recently suggested that Defense Minister Peres may be considering a withdrawal from the hills at al-Qunaytirah as part of an interim agreement. An Israeli journalist later suggested to our embassy that Peres may even be considering this withdrawal as a unilateral gesture. Such a gesture timed to defuse the mandate renewal issue is possible, but Israel regards the hills as a major bargaining chip in the negotiations with Damascus and is unlikely to relinquish them solely in return for an extension of the UN mandate.

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NOTES

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Cambodia

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Skirmishes continue between Cambodian *and* Vietnamese *forces on offshore islands in the Gulf of Thailand.*

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According to a Cambodian intercept, Vietnamese forces last week occupied an island near another held by Cambodia. Earlier messages referred to several Cambodian casualties, apparently in this area, and to Vietnamese shelling of a Cambodian island. Both countries appear to be increasing their coastal defenses, and there is no evidence that either government is willing to compromise about either the disputed islands or undersea resources.

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Spain *may be taking more seriously reports of a possible* Moroccan *incursion into* Spanish Sahara.

[redacted] has reported that Spain may be in the process of reinforcing its troops in Spanish Sahara and the Canary Islands. An airfield in the Canary Islands was closed to civilian traffic yesterday, reportedly because of troop movements. [redacted] infantry battalion stationed there may be going to Spanish Sahara. He also reports that a second parachute battalion may have been sent from the mainland to the islands.

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ANNEX

SPAIN

The effort to bring about gradual liberalization in Spain and to ease the eventual transition of power from General Franco to Prince Juan Carlos suffered a major setback [redacted] 25X1 25X1

The adoption of repressive tactics by the regime reflects the ascendancy of rightist forces at a crucial time in Spain's political evolution. Despite the outpouring of patriotic sentiment in reaction to foreign criticism, the longer term effect of the Franco anti-terrorist campaign will be the further polarization of political forces.

[redacted] 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1 25X1

The ground lost to the rightists will not be easily regained. The massive show of unity on the 39th anniversary of Franco's assumption of power has been followed by rightist demonstrations throughout the country. Elements opposed to any significant political change will undoubtedly use this show of support to consolidate their position.

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Senior Spanish military officers--many of the highest rank being veterans of the civil war--undoubtedly supported adoption of the tough anti-terrorist law.

Their position, however, does not necessarily represent the sentiment of all lower ranking officers and enlisted men. The arrest of several officers last summer for involvement in political activities suggests that there is more discontent and perhaps incipient political activism among the junior officers 25X1 So far, most of the complaints of junior officers have seemed to revolve around such military issues as pay and promotion.

The issue with the greatest potential for politicizing the armed forces would be the necessity of military intervention to restore law and order. Opposition to a police role for the army has surfaced in the past, and even the upper echelons might have second thoughts if the campaign of violence, which is already beginning to reach serious proportions, threatens to get out of hand.

Another issue that might galvanize a political movement within the military would be a misadventure in Spanish Sahara--either a quick, sharp defeat or prolonged hostilities that could not be ended with honor.

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[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

The 82-year-old Franco's selected successor--Prince Juan Carlos--will inherit a nation that is more polarized than it was even a few months ago between those trying to maintain the old regime and those committed to its reform or replacement.

Prime Minister Arias and others have sought to lessen the dangers of the transition by slowly bringing into the mainstream of Spanish politics groups which in any other European country would, at the very least, be members of the respectable opposition. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1

[redacted] The government is still striving to

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present a united front in the face of its current problems [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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